

<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER</b>			Docket No. <b>FIS920030200US1</b>
Application No. <b>10/604,594</b>	Filing Date <b>08/01/03</b>	Examiner <b>Khiem D. Nguyen</b>	Art Unit <b>2823</b>

Applicant(s): **Hiroyuki Akatsu et al.**

Invention: **METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED TRENCH PROCESSING**

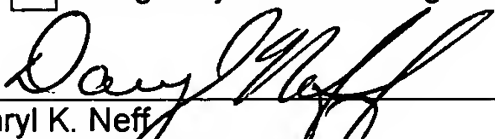
**TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

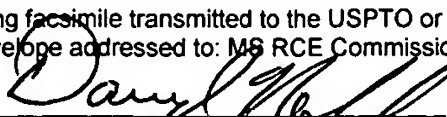
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

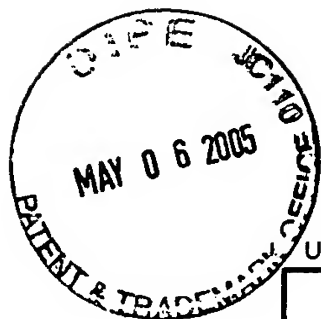
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>		
Independent Claims	<b>1</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>0</b>		
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					

- ☒ Large Entity ☐ Small Entity
- ☒ No additional fee is required for this amendment.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **09-0458** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.

  
Daryl K. Neff  
Attorney Reg. No.: **38,253**

Dated: **May 3, 2005**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MPEACE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.  
Dated: May 3, 2005 Signature:  (Daryl K. Neff)



1FW/RCE  
2823

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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<b>Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal</b>  Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>10/604,594</b>
	<b>Filing Date</b>	<b>08/01/2003</b>
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	<b>Hiroyuki Akatsu</b>
	<b>Art Unit</b>	<b>2823</b>
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	<b>Khiem D. Nguyen</b>
	<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	<b>FIS920030200US1</b>

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Miscellaneous**
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **09-0458**
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Name (Print/Type)	Daryl K. Neff	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,253
Signature		Date	May 3, 2005

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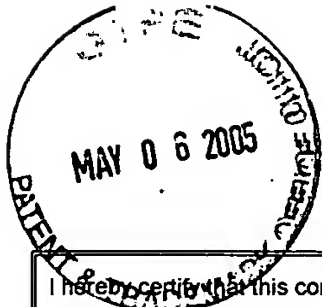
Dated: May 3, 2005

Signature: (Daryl K. Neff)

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Name of Depositor: Daryl K. Neff

Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: <b>Hiroyuki Akatsu et al.</b>	Date: <b>May 3, 2005</b>
Serial Number: <b>10/604,594</b>	Examiner: <b>Khiem D. Nguyen</b>
Filed: <b>August 1, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit: <b>2823</b>
Title: <b>METHOD AND STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVED TRENCH PROCESSING</b>	H. Daniel Schnurmann IBM Corporation Dept. 18G, B/321, Zip 482 2070 Route 52 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

**AMENDMENT FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.114**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2005, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks for the Examiner's consideration.